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⑮ 発明の名称 印刷物の検査装置

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## 明 細 書

微とする印刷物の検査装置。

## 1. 発明の名称

印刷物の検査装置

## 2. 特許請求の範囲

同一紙面内に、複数の同一パターンの絵柄が直線上に配列されて印刷される印刷物を、所定の搬送方向に搬送しつつ、自己走査型光電変換検出手段を介して前記絵柄の良否を判定する印刷物の検査装置において、前記自己走査型光電変換検出手段により、前記絵柄に対応して順次出力される光電変換検出信号を介して得られるデジタル・パターン信号(A)を順次格納するとともに、既に格納されている前記絵柄の一つ前の絵柄に対応するデジタル・パターン信号(B)を読出して出力する基準パターン記憶手段と、前記デジタル・パターン信号(A)と前記デジタル・パターン信号(B)とを比較照合して、前記印刷物の良否を判定する比較判定手段と、を備えることを特

## 3. 発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は、印刷物の検査装置に関し、特に直線上に配列されて印刷されている複数の同一パターンの絵柄、例えば同一紙面内に印刷されている証券または切手等の印刷面の汚れを検出して判定する印刷物の検査装置に関する。

(従来の技術)

従来、この種の印刷物の試験装置においては、複数の同一パターンの絵柄の印刷物の搬送方向に対して複数個の検出器を設け、これらの検出器により、それぞれ隣接する絵柄の同一部分を走査して、各検出器により得られる検出信号間の差を取り、その差の大小により印刷物の良否を判定している。その一例としては、例えば特願昭49-108553による例があげられる。

(発明が解決しようとする問題点)

上述した従来の印刷物の検査装置は、隣接する

複数の同一パターンの絵柄の同一走査部分を複数の検出器を用いて比較判定しているために、前記複数の検出器のそれぞれの受光ビームが、相互に隣接する第一パターンの絵柄の同一部分に対して常時一対一の関係で対応していることが検査精度を保持するための第一前提条件となる。このため、前記複数の検出器の設定に関しては、複雑な調整および固定機構が必要となるという欠点とともに、検出器の光学系あるいは照明等に関連して、光電変換検出用の受光素子の感度のばらつき、シェーディングおよび投光むら等があり、同一パターンの絵柄の同一部分に対応する光電変換検出信号にも相互に誤差信号が存在しているため前記誤差信号のレベル以内の差の場合には、印刷物の良否の判定ができないという欠点がある。

〔問題点を解決するための手段〕

本発明の印刷物の検査装置は、同一紙面内に、複数の同一パターンの絵柄が直線上に配列されて印刷される印刷物を、所定の搬送方向に搬送しつつ、自己走査型光電変換検出手段を介して前記絵

柄の良否を判定する印刷物の検査装置において、前記自己走査型光電変換検出手段により、前記絵柄に対応して順次出力される光電変換検出信号を介して得られるデジタル・パターン信号(A)を順次格納するとともに、既に格納されている前記絵柄の一つ前の絵柄に対応するデジタル・パターン信号(B)を読出して出力する基準パターン記憶手段と、前記デジタル・パターン信号(A)と前記デジタル・パターン信号(B)とを比較照合して、前記印刷物の良否を判定する比較判定手段と、を備えて構成される。

〔実施例〕

以下、本発明について図面を参照して説明する。

第1図は、本発明の一実施例の要部を示すブロック図である。第1図に示されるように、本実施例は、搬送方向101に沿って搬送される印刷物2に対応して、投光器1と、自己走査型光電変換検出器3と、A-D変換器4と、基準パターン・メモリ5と、光電検出器駆動制御回路6と、ロータリ・エンコーダ7と、タイミング制御回路8と、

メモリアドレス制御回路9と、比較判定回路10と、を備えている。

第1図において、印刷物2は搬送方向101に沿って、所定の搬送速度において搬送されている。投光器1から照射され印刷物によって反射される反射光102は自己走査型光電変換検出器3より受光され、電気信号に変換されて光電変換検出信号としてA-D変換器4に送られる。自動走査型光電変換検出器3としては、本実施例においてはCCD(Charge Coupled Device)を用いて構成されており、光電検出器駆動制御回路6により送られてくる駆動パルス信号 $\phi_R$ および走査切替信号 $\phi_T$ により制御されて、自己走査型光電変換検出器3の受光ビームは電気的に走査される。前記受光ビームの走査は、印刷物2の搬送方向101に対してほぼ直交する向きに行われ、印刷物2の同一模様絵柄に対応する光電変換検出信号が、搬送方向101に沿って順次取得される。

A-D変換器4に入力される前記光電変換検出信号は、タイミング制御回路8より送られてくる

タイミング信号を介してA-D変換され、印刷物2の各絵柄に対応するデジタル・パターン信号として基準パターン・メモリ5および比較判定回路10に送られる。基準パターン・メモリ5は、メモリアドレス制御回路9から入力されるアドレス指定信号により制御されて、A-D変換器4から入力される前記デジタル・パターン信号を、前記各絵柄ごとに所定のアドレスに格納するとともに、既に格納されている一つ前の絵柄に対応するデジタル・パターン信号を出力して比較判定回路10に送り出す機能を有しており、比較判定回路10においては、タイミング制御回路8から入力される所定のタイミング信号を介して、A-D変換器4から直接送られてくる前記デジタル・パターン信号と、基準パターン・メモリ5から読出される前記一つ前の絵柄に対応するデジタル・パターン信号とが比較判定され、A-D変換器4から直接入力されるデジタル・パターン信号に対する良否判定信号Eが出力される。

上記の基準パターン・メモリ5および比較判定



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(54) Title of Invention: An Inspection Device for Printed Matter

(21) Patent Application No: 61-64356

(22) Patent Application Date: March 20, 1986

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## **SPECIFICATION**

### **1. TITLE OF THE INVENTION**

**An Inspection Device for Printed Matter**

### **2. CLAIM**

An inspection device for printed matter, wherein printed matter with the same pattern printed repeatedly at right angles on the same sheet of paper is conveyed in a specific direction of conveyance and the printed quality of the patterns is determined by an automatic scanning-type photoelectric conversion detection means, and wherein the inspection device for printed matter is equipped with a standard pattern memory means to house successively the digital pattern signals (A) obtained successively from outputted photoelectric conversion detection signals corresponding to a pattern, and to read and output the pre-recorded digital pattern signals (B) corresponding to the pattern prior to the pattern, and a comparison means to compare digital pattern signals (A) to digital pattern signals (B) and determine the printing quality of the pattern.

### **3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

**(Industrial Field of Application)**

The present invention pertains to an inspection device for printed matter, and more specifically to an inspection device for printed matter used to inspect printed matter in which the same pattern is printed repeatedly at right angles on the same sheet of paper. The inspection device is used in particular to detect stains on the printed surface of certificates or stamps printed repeatedly at right angles on the same sheet of paper.

**(Prior Art)**

In the various testing devices for printed matter currently in use, a plurality of detectors is arranged along the conveyance route of printed matter in which the same pattern is printed repeatedly on the same sheet. These detectors scan the same portion of adjacent patterns, and the difference between detection signals obtained from the detectors is used to determine the quality of the printed matter. An example of one of these testing devices was disclosed in Japanese Patent Application No. 49-108553.

**(Problem Solved by the Invention)**

These inspection devices for printed matter use a plurality of detectors to compare the same scanned portion from adjacent identical patterns. In order to maintain detection precision, the beam of light received by the plurality of detectors has to have a one-to-one correspondence from the same portion of adjacent patterns. As a result, setting the plurality of detectors requires complicated adjustments and mechanisms. Any difference in sensitivity of the light receiving elements for photoelectric detection due to the optics and illumination of the detectors can cause an error signal in the photoelectric conversion detection signals. If the error signals exceed a certain level, the quality of the printed matter can be misjudged.

**(Means of Solving the Problem)**

The present invention is an inspection device for printed matter, in which printed matter with the same pattern printed repeatedly at right angles on the same sheet of paper is conveyed in a specific direction of conveyance and the printed quality of the patterns is determined by an automatic scanning-type photoelectric conversion detection means, and in which the inspection device for printed matter is equipped with a standard pattern memory means to house successively the digital pattern signals (A)

obtained successively from outputted photoelectric conversion detection signals corresponding to a pattern, and to read and output the pre-recorded digital pattern signals (B) corresponding to the pattern prior to the pattern, and a comparison means to compare digital pattern signals (A) to digital pattern signals (B) and determine the printing quality of the pattern.

(Preferred Embodiment)

The following is an explanation of a preferred embodiment of the present invention with reference to the drawing.

FIG 1 is a block diagram showing the essential components in a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The preferred embodiment in FIG 1 is equipped with a light projector 1 corresponding to the printed matter 2 conveyed in conveyance direction 101, an automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector 3, an analog-to-digital converter 4, a standard pattern 5, a photoelectric detector drive control circuit 6, a rotary encoder 7, a timing control circuit 8, a memory address control circuit 9, and a comparison circuit 10.

In FIG 1, the printed matter 2 is conveyed at the desired speed in the conveyance direction 101. Light from the light projector 1 is reflected off the printed matter, and the reflected light 102 is received by the automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector 3. The light is converted to electric signals, and sent to the analog-to-digital converter 4 as photoelectric conversion detection signals. The automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector 3 in the preferred embodiment is a charge coupled device (CCD) controlled by drive pulse signals  $\phi_R$  and scanning switching signals  $\phi_T$  from the photoelectric detector drive control circuit 6. The light beams received by the automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector 3 are scanned electrically. The light beams are scanned perpendicular to conveyance direction 101 of the printed matter 2. The photoelectrically converted detection signals corresponding to the pattern on the printed matter 2 are taken up successively along the direction of conveyance 101.



The photoelectric conversion detection signals inputted to the analog-to-digital converter 4 are converted from analog to digital signals using the timing signals from the timing control circuit 8. These signals are then sent to the standard pattern memory 5 and comparison circuit 10 as digital pattern signals corresponding to the pattern on the printed matter 2. The standard pattern memory 5 is controlled by address specifying signals from the memory address control circuit 9. The digital pattern signals inputted from the analog-to-digital converter 4 are stored at specific addresses for each pattern. The digital pattern signals corresponding to the pattern stored before the current one are then outputted to the comparison circuit 10. Using specific timing signals from the timing control circuit 8, the comparison circuit 10 compares the digital pattern signals sent directly from the analog-to-digital converter 4 with the digital pattern signals corresponding to the pattern stored before the current one in the standard pattern memory 5, and outputs a quality signal E for the digital pattern signals inputted directly from the analog-to-digital converter 4.

The standard pattern memory 5 and the comparison circuit 10 operate in tandem. The conveyor positions of the various patterns on the printed matter 2 are detected by a rotary encoder 7 that drives a rotating mechanism used to convey the printed matter 2. The conveyor position signals corresponding to the patterns are inputted to the memory address control circuit 9 via the timing control circuit 8. These signals are controlled by specific timing signals from the timing control circuit 8. The drive pulse signals generated by the drive control circuit 6 and sent to the automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector 3 are inputted to the memory address control circuit 9. The memory address control circuit 9 sets the memory address for the scanning positions of the patterns on the printed matter 2 based on the conveyor position signals and drive pulse signals. Address designating signals are then generated and sent to the standard pattern memory 5. When there is a change in the conveyance speed of the printed matter 2, the transfer clock blanking period of the automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector 3 is changed by a signal from the rotary encoder 7 in order to prevent a disruption in the relationship between the scanning position and the position of the patterns on the printed matter 2. The timing control by the timing control

circuit 8 is also reset so that the digital values corresponding to the same portions of the patterns are inputted to the same memory address.

The patterns arranged on the printed matter 2 along the direction of conveyance 101 are detected successively as photoelectric conversion detection signals by the operation of the various components. These photoelectric conversion detection signals are compared to the detection signals for the adjacent pattern, and the difference is used to determine the quality of the printed matter.

#### (Effect of the Invention)

The present invention uses a single automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector to scan the same pattern printed repeatedly at right angles on the same sheet of paper. As a result, a plurality of detectors does not have to be adjusted using complicated methods and mechanisms. There is also no difference in the sensitivity of the light receiving elements for photoelectric detection due to the optics and illumination of a plurality of detectors. As a result, errors do not occur in the photoelectric conversion detection signals. Because the transfer clock blanking period of the automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector is automatically adjusted, there is no need to adjust the scanning of the same portion of the same pattern.

#### 4. BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG 1 is a block diagram of a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

1 ... light projector, 2 ... printed matter, 3 ... automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector, 4 ... analog-to-digital converter, 5 ... standard pattern, 6 ... photoelectric detector drive control circuit, 7 ... rotary encoder, 8 ... timing control circuit, 9 ... memory address control circuit, 10 ... comparison circuit

Agent

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FIG 1

1 ... light projector, 2 ... printed matter, 3 ... automatic scanning-style photoelectric detector, 4 ...  
... analog-to-digital converter, 5 ... standard pattern, 6 ... photoelectric detector drive control circuit,  
7 ... rotary encoder, 8 ... timing control circuit, 9 ... memory address control circuit, 10 ...  
comparison circuit

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